

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01071 241115Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 /023 W
-----094505 242210Z /64

R 221130Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, MZ
SUBJECT: EXIMBANK CLAIMS M-786-7 ADRIANO MAIA (SUCRS) LDA.

REF: STATE 212531

1. FOLLOWING FORMAT OF REFTEL EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON QUESTIONS ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

A) THERE ARE NUMEROUS PRIVATELY OWNED BUSINESSES FUNCTIONING
VIABLY IN MOZAMBIQUE. MANY ARE OWNED BY FOREIGNERS, MOSTLY
PORTUGUESE. OWNERS WHO AT ANY TIME LIVED IN MOZAMBIQUE CANNOT LEAVE
THE COUNTRY FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS, HOWEVER RISK OF LOSING LOCAL
PROPERTY.

B) TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NO VIABLE PRIVATE BUSINESSES LEFT
IN MAPUTO COMPARABLE TO ADRIANO MAIA. SOME PRIVATE IMPORTERS AND
DISTRIBUTORS OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT, WHICH WERE ALSO DIVERSIFIED IN
OTHER LINES, HAVE REMAINED VIABLE, THOUGH EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT
THEIR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN PROFITABLE DURING
THE PAST COUPLE YEARS.

C. WHETHER ADRIANO MAIA WAS SINGLED OUT OR SUFFERED ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE OF MANAGERIAL WEAKNESS IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO
JUDGE. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. THOUGH FIRM
SUFFERED FROM DEPARTURE OF MUCH SKILLED PERSONNEL, AND EMBASSY
WAS AWARE OF SOME PREVIOUS PROBLEMS WITH GPRM.

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2. EMBASSY BELIEVES UNDERLYING CAUSE OF TAKE OVER WAS DESIRE
OF GOVERNMENT MORE TIGHTLY CONTROL IMPORTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCY
RESERVES. FIRMS WHICH RETAINED NEITHER EXTENSIVE SERVICE FACILITIES
NOR CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FROM MANUFACTURERS WERE SEEN
AS UNNECESSARY MIDDLE MEN AND MOST HAVE BY NOW BEEN CONSOLIDATED
INTO STATE BUYING ENTERPRISES, WHICH CO EXIST WITH REMAINING
PRIVATE FIRMS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780838/aaaabfic.tel
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